



Gene Maurice Eastman

January 1, 1926 - February 22, 2016

Gene Maurice Eastman was born January 01, 1926 in Council Grove KS as the only child to Glen and Vena Eastman and passed away peacefully on February 22, 2016 in Conroe TX.

Gene served his country in WWII from 1943-1946 as a Corporal in the US Marine Corps, 2nd division, 6th Regt. stationed in the Pacific Theater. While fighting for his country, he also worked alongside with the renowned Navajo code talkers as a telephone lineman.

Gene then began working for Cessna while he took classes at the University of Kansas (he loved to watch those Jayhawker basketball games). After graduating from KU, he attended the Chicago Art Institute as an undergraduate.

From there he attended the University of Iowa where he graduated in 1958. It was there he met and married his beloved wife Marguerite Coon Eastman.

Gene accepted a teaching position at Sam Houston State Teachers College (now Sam Houston State University) in Huntsville TX in 1958 where he served as an honored and respected art professor as well as the Art Department Chairman. He taught many different art classes, from life drawing and art history to watercolor and oil painting to pastel and charcoal drawing.

He was a very versatile and talented artist who enjoyed painting abstracts, still

lifes, landscapes, and figure drawing,

He loved his profession and it showed as he had many gallery and museum exhibits throughout the years. Gene also taught and exhibited his works at the Museum Of Fine Arts in Houston, TX and is listed in the Who's Who of American artists.

After 43 years of teaching, Gene retired from SHSU and devoted his time to his many hobbies.

In addition to his artistic accomplishments, Gene was also a gifted athlete. Attending race walking camps in Colorado, he became quite adept at the sport and was a certified member of the USA Track & Field Association and competed and won several medals in the Senior Olympics nationwide. He also judged and competed in many statewide competitions.

Gene was very proficient in all he did. When he wasn't in his art studio creating, he was having fun with his many hobbies. He was a licensed ham radio operator, worked on his own sports cars, enjoyed photography, developing his own photographs, and was an avid sharpshooter. He even made his own ammunition. He taught himself Spanish and French with books and tapes which he found useful in his travels overseas.

Most of all, Gene will be remembered as a kind and gentle man who enjoyed his family and all life had to offer.

When taking family vacations, Gene would point out the different colors and hues in nature to his children and how many beautiful tones a simple fallen leaf would have. Always positive, encouraging, and never without a smile on his face, Gene will be forever in our hearts.

Gene is preceded in death by his loving wife Marguerite Coon Eastman, and son Greg Eastman.

Gene is survived by his three children, Susan Eastman of Taylor, TX; Jennifer Eastman Mathena and husband Eugene Mathena of Conroe, TX; Jonathan Eastman of Houston, TX; granddaughter Meagan Eldridge of Nashville, TN; grandson Corporal Forrest Eldridge of Geneva, Switzerland; sister-in-laws Carol Kornman of Tampa, FL and Joy Brumley of North Liberty, IA.

Gene's family would like to give special thanks to Thee Hospice, Elva Graham, Huntsville Home Health Care, and the staff at Conroe Heartis Memory Care Facility.

If you would like to make any donations in Gene's honor, please do so at the charity of your choice or your local animal shelter as Gene's grandfather who was a veterinarian, instilled a love and respect for all animals (which shows in his many cat sketches).

Another worthwhile charity is the Friends of Art, Department of Art, P.O. Box 289 Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341-2089, (936-294-4311). This will assist students in the art department with much needed art supplies and books.

Upon attending the viewing and/or funeral, please wear your favorite color in memory of Gene who so loved color.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM till 8:00 PM on Friday, February 26, 2016 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. A funeral service will held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 27, 2016 in the chapel at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. Interment will be held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Greenwood Cemetery in Council Grove, Kansas.

Full obituary may be viewed and memorial condolences made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Service

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Graveside Service

MAR 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Greewood Cemetery
Council Grove, KS

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gene Maurice Eastman*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - February 25, 2016 at 05:40 PM



“ *Gene Maurice Eastman*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Gene Maurice Eastman.*



February 29, 2016 at 05:29 PM

TC

“ My condolences are with you Susan and your family. I can't say I understand what you are going through with loosing a father but what I can say is I can relate. You already know I lost mines in December.



What I like to say to you and the family is try to remember the good days, not the last days and pray. I often chant this to myself when I am down and miss my dad. HOPE...Hold On Pain Ends.

Much love and prayers,
Tamra Cleaver
BCD Travel
(Apple)

Tamra Cleaver - February 29, 2016 at 04:47 PM

TF

Thank you Tamra, good advice~

The Eastman Family - March 02, 2016 at 12:39 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debra Harper - February 26, 2016 at 03:36 PM

TF

Love it, thank you Debra 🐱

The Eastman Family - February 26, 2016 at 09:51 PM

TA

“ *Sorry for your lost. I was his caregiver from Bright star. Tamicka. He was a sweet man. He enjoyed subway everyday.*

Tamicka - February 26, 2016 at 01:15 AM

TF

Thank you Tamicka , you took good care of dad.

The Eastman Family - February 26, 2016 at 11:36 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gene Maurice Eastman.*



February 25, 2016 at 10:11 PM

DP

“ *Donna Paschall lit a candle in memory of Gene Maurice Eastman*



Donna Paschall - February 24, 2016 at 03:29 PM

DP

Please know that I am praying for the entire family. May God give you peace and rest. Love, Donna Sue Robinson Paschall

Donna Paschall - February 24, 2016 at 03:30 PM

TF

Thank you Donna Sue

The Eastman Family - February 24, 2016 at 07:16 PM

EF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Eastman Family - February 24, 2016 at 09:53 AM

TZ

“ My heart & prayers go out to Susan Eastman, her siblings, & her family.

I met Professor Eastman while attending SHSU in 1972. Not only was he a brilliant artist, but also a loving gentle father to his kids, and a shining example to his students. He was a pillar of the community. And his spirit will live on in the hearts & souls of those who knew him.

Theresa Zurek - February 24, 2016 at 09:51 AM

TF

Thank you Theresa

The Eastman Family - February 24, 2016 at 06:36 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gene Maurice Eastman.



February 23, 2016 at 09:14 PM

EG

“ *Elva Graham lit a candle in memory of Gene Maurice Eastman*



Elva Graham - February 23, 2016 at 08:17 PM

EG

On behave of Thee Hospice Team, our sincere condolences to the Eastman Family on the passing of your Father/Grandfather. It was an Honor to have known and cared for your father. May God's Love bring you Comfort and Peace during this difficulty time.

Elva Graham - February 23, 2016 at 08:23 PM

SE

Thank you Elva for all your loving care and support. The Eastman family

Susan Eastman - February 24, 2016 at 09:22 AM

MH

Condolences to the family of Gene from the Department of Art at Sam Houston State University. Gene was loved and respected by all of the faculty who worked with him and an inspiration to many many students who think about him every time they make art. His influence is widely felt and he will be missed.

Michael Henderson - February 24, 2016 at 10:11 AM

EF

Thank you Michael for your kind words, he sure will be missed

Eastman Family - February 24, 2016 at 10:38 AM

JM

Thank you "doctor" Elva for taking such excellent care of my dad. He really enjoyed your visits and brightened his days. I consider you a friend. ...

Jennifer Mathena - February 25, 2016 at 08:38 PM

DH

I feel very privileged to have been in Mr. Eastman's drawing classes at SHSU. He was a WONDERFUL person who was quick with a smile, and a GREAT Teacher and Artist that loved to draw. If one of his many sketchbooks were not at hand he would draw on whatever was convenient at the time. When teaching he would take the time to meet one on one with his students and more than likely he would refer to his army of hard working art books that he kept heavily tabbed and underlined with the perfect picture or reference that reflected his interest and love of drawing, and I am quite sure that many MANY others, including his beloved cats, would agree with methat he was a REALLY SPECIAL and exceptional NICE human being!

Debra Davenport Harper - February 26, 2016 at 02:28 PM

DP

Many years ago, a young family of 3 from Montana found ourselves deep into Huntsville, Tx, and the SHSU family. It was a culture shock for us. Some of our fondest memories were spent with Gene and Marguerite Eastman, who immediately took us under their wings and modeled, for us, true southern hospitality. Gene was greatly respected within SHSU, and throughout the greater community. A soft spoken man that had a thorough and well-rounded knowledge of art and its history. He shared that knowledge and talent with his students and enjoyed discussing the world of art with those who had that same love and respect for the subject. He was a gentle, humble, man who always had time to listen, was open to new and informed thinking, and responded positively. He had a great sense of humor, and his unique laughter is without a doubt an indelible attribute, as we recount our time spent with him. Those who knew Gene well, could not overlook his sense of style (in the sports cars he drove), and his drive to keep his body and mind strong through race walking. His passing leaves an empty space in the hearts of his loving children (of whom he was so proud) and his closest friends, yet, this void will soon be filled with sunshine and smiles as we remember our professor, our colleague, our friend, and most importantly, Gene Eastman as father. May God shower his comfort and love on his family, today, and going forward Darryl & Bonnie Patrick

Darryl Patrick - February 26, 2016 at 05:51 PM

TF

Thank you Debra, Darryl and Bonnie for such touching words re our dad. Forever in our hearts~

The Eastman Family - February 27, 2016 at 07:23 PM



Well said....

Jennifer Mathena - February 27, 2016 at 09:31 PM